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March 7, 1997

Stan Perkes
Utah State Office
Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 45144
Salt Lake City, UT 84155-0155

Re: Request for Approval of Minor Modification
Mine Plan of the Cowboy No.1 Mine
U.S.Gilsonite Lease U-0162293
Sec.33, T8S-R24E, Uintah Co., Utah

Dear Stan:

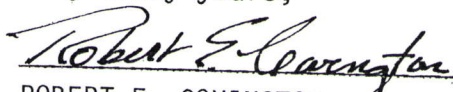
We enclose herewith three (3) copies of "Request for Approval for Minor Modification of Mine Plan" for the above described mine. Accompanying this request are three copies of the maps which are a part of this request.

I am hand delivering an additional copy of the packet to Duane Depaepe of your Vernal office.

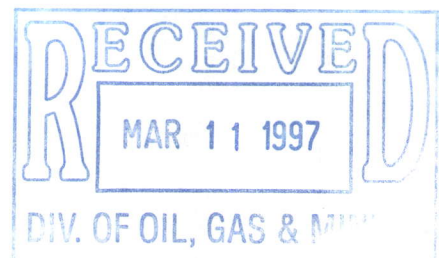
We have already sent the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining copies of the request for their approval.

We will appreciate any help you can give us in expediting this approval.

Very truly yours,


ROBERT E. COVINGTON, CONSULTANT FOR
ZIEGLER CHEMICAL & MINERAL CORP.

cc: Gordon S. Ziegler, Jr.
Norman R. Haslem
Duane Depaepe
State of Utah Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining



M/047/013

Cowboy No. 1

DOG-M RECEIVED
MARCH 11, 1997
WITH 2 MAPS/DRAWINGS
(2 COPIES OF SAME MAP)

REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION OF THE
MINING PLAN FOR THE COWBOY NO.1 MINE,
U.S.GILSONITE LEASE U-0122693 LOCATED
IN SEC.33,T8S-R24E, UINTAH COINTY,UTAH

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT.E. COVINGTON
CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST NO.1705
FOR
ZIEGLER CHEMICAL & MINERAL CORPORATION
MARCH 6, 1997

REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION OF THE
MINING PLAN FOR THE COWBOY NO.1 MINE.
U.S.GILSONITE LEASE U-0122693 LOCATED
IN SEC.33, T8S-R24E, UINTAH COUNTY,UTAH

BACKGROUND:

In early December, 1993 the Mine Plan for the Cowboy No.1 gilsonite mine was submitted to both the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining. The plan was approved in early January, 1994 with mining commencing shortly thereafter. Mining on the Cowboy vein has been conducted under very difficult circumstances, as the vein has narrowed significantly at depth and rock conditions are a barrier to more productive mining. In view of the lack of sufficient production, Ziegler Chemical & Mineral Corporation proposed to mine the ore from the surface downward to a depth which will be 10 feet above the roof of the first floor of the mine. This will leave a 10 foot pillar above the first floor. The void will be backfilled with rock and dirt after the ore has been mined with a stockpiled dirt which will be reseeded in conformance with the Mine Plan. This plan will serve two purposes:

(1) It will provide Ziegler with some immediately needed ore for their processing plant and will prevent the necessity of Ziegler from laying off workers.

(2) It will provide additional income to the United States from the more efficient operation of the mine through the mining of these additional reserves of ore. This, in turn, will add income from the work to the miners and thus, subsequently, to the State of Utah through their payroll taxes and their purchases in the local area. No additional surface disturbance is proposed. The terms and conditions of the Mine Plan will be strictly observed. A Mine Map on the scale of 1" = 50' showing the proposed mining accompanies this request.

Robert E. Covington

ROBERT E. COVINGTON, OPG #1705

CONSULTANT TO ZIEGLER CHEMICAL & MINERL CORP.

MARCH 6, 1997